Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia



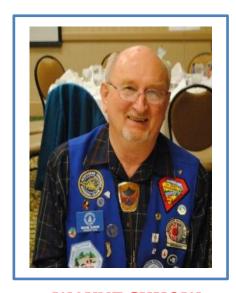
MINERAL MINUTES

The Mineral Minutes is the award winning bulletin of The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, Inc.

The purpose of this Society is to promote interest in mineralogy, geology, and related earth sciences and to encourage mineral collecting. An annual scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the related field.

The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia is one of the founding Societies of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies.

Vol. 73, No. 5 Founded 1942 May 2014



WAYNE SUKOW WILL BE OUR PRESENTER TOPIC: AGATES May 7,2014

Wayne's mineral and lapidary hobby began with the Agateaceous Epoch (1960) in River Falls, WI. His brother-in-law, an Earth Science teacher was visiting and said, "Hey Wayne, I heard that there are Lake Superior agates around here. Let's look for some." So, the next afternoon they did and Wayne found his first "Laker," which was a 35 mm oval nodule, flawless, had classic red

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and white banding and a red flame in the center. He was "hooked" and still has that agate. Several years later on a winter evening, he was examining a Laker cabochon and discovered arborescent native copper crystal aggregates perched on white chalcedony bands. That led to an article in the Lapidary Journal, the first of many publications about agates and Michigan datolite. This led him to join several local mineral clubs and giving the

first of many programs about agates and datolite.

[Left: Wayne agate collecting in New Zealand-1998]

Wayne's 2nd Epoch, the Plumeaceous, began in 1970 when he returned to graduate school at Washington State University. For relaxation he'd go to Shorty's Diggins on Emerald Creek near St. Mary's, Idaho to dig for the renowned and beautiful Idaho Star Garnet. Using the "silver pick," he also collected the rare Priday Plume agate, Carey Plume agate and old Blue Biggs picture jasper. This epoch ended when he finished his Ph. D. in Chemical Physics, which was to prove very helpful for his later work on agate formation, formation of plumes in agate and the iris effect in agate.

Wayne's 3rd epoch, the Metalliferous, began in 1980 when he discovered a new source of collectible minerals, the colorful datolite nodules, copper crystal and silver from "Copper Country" on Michigan's Upper. That led him to study crystalline copper inclusions in datolite. He also

began looking for copper crystals in his Lake Superior agates. Wayne was successful on a winter evening in the

early 1980s when he examined a newly cut Lake Superior agate cabochon under a microscope. That epoch ended with the publication of his first two articles about Lake Superior agate, which emphasized the metallic copper crystal inclusions in 1987.

[Right: Wayne's Lake Superior Agate Exhibit at the Wonderful World of Agates event-2008.]

His 4th epoch, the Datoliferous, began with a job change and move to Northern Virginia in 1990. Lapidary materials were nonexistent. However, at a Northern Virginia Mineral Club auction he discovered there were exquisite, water-clear crystals of datolite found in the local trap rock quarries...only 20 miles away in Loudon Co. This led to a collection of datolite crystals from worldwide



sources and writing about them. The 1990s were also an era of his other mineral publications. That work continues up to the present; it seems he's always planning a new publication or AFMS slide program.

During all of these "epochs," he joined local gem and mineral clubs and serving as an officer or bulletin editor. In 2003, he became the Assistant Director of EFMLS-Wildacres and after the June 2004 session, he served as Director. He served an abbreviated stint as 2nd VP of the EFMLS in 2004, continued as the 1st VP of the EFMLS in 2005, and ended this sequence serving as President of the Eastern Federation during 2006.

His retirement began in 2004, giving him more time to present programs to local mineral clubs, continue his writing about agates, phenomena seen in them such as Extreme Iris, metallic copper replacement of partial or entire agate bands. This is complemented with his development of more AFMS competitive programs. The final time consuming activity is associated with his deaccessionning" of his Michigan datolite and Lake Superior agate collections. Iris agate and Priday Plume agate collections are next. See his website at <sukowssuperiorminerals.com> or contact him via email at d8olite@fastmail.fm

In October 2013 he was named the Dr. Charles Salotti Earth Science Award recipient at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI. The Salotti Earth Science Award is given in recognition of the recipient's long term and original contributions to Earth Science Education in grades K-12.



THE PREZ SAYS...

By Stephen Johnson [Not submitted.]

Editor's Note: On behalf of our club president, let me say that it's finally spring and the perfect time to not only gaze at cherry blossoms, but to congratulate all those who participated in the EFMLS bulletin and website competition!

The Board and club members would also like to congratulate John Weidner on being Rockhound of the Year! It's great to have so many wonderful and willing club members helping the club! You all make MSDC the great mineral club that it is. A big thanks to Pat Flavin, as well, for covering the April meeting and to all of you for your flexibility regarding the change of venue for our pre-meeting dinner.

It was also great to have long-time members such as George Loud join us as well as Tom Tucker at last month's meeting. Distance can't keep rockhounds apart—except when on vacation. It was a pleasure to welcome our guests and to have such an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker as Joe Marty (and his wife, Petrea) at our April meeting.

We are all looking forward to Wayne Sukow's presentation at our upcoming club meeting. Wayne is not only the president of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, but he is also a federation chair and former EFMLS president. He's a great guy and he knows a lot about agates. I'm sure that we are all looking forward to his presentation and will be in for quite a treat!



EDITOR'S NOTE:

MSDC WANTS
YOU! – to serve as our
new editor for 2015.
If you are interested,
please contact me and
I will be happy to talk

with you about what is involved. I'd like to

have our new editor work with me towards the end of the year to begin organizing our submissions for the EFMLS Bulletin Editors Competition. If no one volunteers, MSDC will not have a bulletin next year. Thank you! Sheryl Sims, Editor

As your MSDC Editor, I recently returned from the EFMLS conference in Plymouth Meeting, PA. I'm happy to report that it was another successful conference. Also, it was wonderful to see our federation officers, Matt and Jean Charsky, who were also present. Thanks to the Executive Board for sending me to the conference. [S. Sims].

YOUR 2015 EFMLS OFFICERS

(Left to Right) AFMS President, Richard Jaeger; EFMLS President-Elect, Merrill Dickinson; 1st Vice President-Elect, Larry Heath; Secretary-Elect, Beverly Eisenacher; Treasurer, Jean Charsky; and Editor, Carolyn Weinberger. They will begin their terms of service on November 1, 2014.





Current EFMLS President, Hazel Remaley received an award for her excellent service the federation.







Having provided outstanding service to the federation for many years, Fran Sick, Eastern Foundation Fund Chair was awarded the prestigious *Citation Award*.



Ellery Borow, EFMLS Chair announced our own, John Weidner, as MSDC's Rock Hound of the Year.

Mary Bateman presented MSDC bulletin awards to MSDC's Editor. Our club did



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extremely well in the competitio n. Thanks to all for making our bulletin such a good one

and for sup-porting it with your articles and items of interest.

[All photos in this publication, unless otherwise noted, are by S. Sims]

Our EFMLS Banquet speaker was Ryan Mathur, PhD and Chair of the Juniata College, Geology Department in Huntingtor PA. The recipient of the AFMS Honorary Scholarship, Dr. Mathur was accompanied by Matthew Oxman, first-year graduate student and one of two scholarship recipients selected by Dr. Mathur. Michael Nguyen was also a recipient, but not in attendance.

Below are our EFMLS winners for the Bulletin Competition.

THE WINNERS ARE:

Helen Padgett – Trophy Award – Junior Poetry Steve Johnson – 2nd Place – Educational Articles

Andy Thompson – 2nd Place – Written Features

Andy Thompson – 2nd Place – Educational Articles – Advanced

Andy Thompson – 10th Place – Non-Technical Articles

John Weidner – 6th Place – Non-Technical Articles

Erich Grundel – 8th Place – Written Features

Tom Tucker – 10th Place – Written Features

Sheryl Sims – Honorable Mention – Non-Technical Articles

Sheryl Sims – 7th Place – Written Features Sheryl Sims – 10th Place – Educational Articles – Advanced

Sheryl Sims/Mineral Minutes – 3rd Place – Large Bulletins

Casper Voogt – 2nd Place EFMLS Web Site contest

Club President, Steve Johnson, was praised by Mary Bateman, Competition Chair, for his excellent article on cataloguing minerals. She said that it was one of the best she's seen and that it is a

very useful tool for those wishing to learn how to catalogue their collections. I think Steve will be hearing from Mary in the near future.

Casper did a great job with our website and it was mentioned that a good website must have up-to-date info, which ours does and quick response times when people send inquiries, which ours also does. (Thanks, Andy Thompson for responding so promptly to website inquiries.) Many clubs don't have a website and it was pointed out that websites and FaceBook are critical in getting the word out about our club.

At the awards dinner on Saturday night, John Weidner's name was mentioned as one of EFMLS's Rock Hounds of the Year. Helen, Michael Pabst's granddaughter, did an amazing job with her award-winning poem.

Congratulations to all! You did a great job and I appreciate your support of the newsletter!

Sheryl Sims Editor

The annual 3rd USA Science & Engineering Expo will be:

April 26- 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Walter E. Washington Convention Center,
801 Mt. Vernon Place (on L Street NW, between 9th and 7th Streets NW).
Admission: Free. For more info, please see: http://www.usasciencefestival.org/

EFMLS CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ENJOY CONFERNCE EVENTS

























"Sometimes Rocks Are Great Stepping Stones: How the Midwest's Bedrock Contributed to Our Nation's Clothing and Fashion Industry"

By Andy Thompson

Let's begin this short detour from mineralogy with the entrepreneurial spirit and nation-building savvy of our first president. After he defeated the British in the Revolutionary War (1783) and before his election as the first U.S. president (1789), George Washington committed himself to developing the country's fledging economy. He saw that one key was to increase trade between the markets of the 13 colonies hugging the east coast with the farm produce and timber of the vast western territories beyond the colonies. He recognized that such financial partnerships would entice the regions from the northern Great Lakes to the southern lands along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to become part of our expanding nation.

This vision required building a system of shallow canals to interconnect the existing natural waterways. As a first step, citizen George Washington established the Patowmack Company in Georgetown in 1785 to dig our own local Chesapeake and Ohio canal. Its goal was to bypass the Potomac River's five rocky falls thereby transforming the river into a navigable waterway. Decades later, that same vision resulted in the formation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal company which interconnected lands along the Chicago and Ohio rivers with the Great Lakes.

One look at today's Chicago skyline, with its tall buildings, gives us a clue that there must be a fair bit of bedrock supporting those tall structures. The canal diggers in the upper Midwest discovered this hard reality and steam shovels, although patented in 1839, were not yet readily available.

So the canal digging was hampered by the rocky terrain which made progress slow and expensive.

Along came Isaac Merritt Singer (1811 – 1877), a six-foot four-inch failed stage actor, who, at the age of 27, had signed on to work with his brother as a laborer digging the canals.

Experiencing the bedrock problem up close and personally, his extraordinary mechanical aptitude resulted in his inventing a rock drilling machine for which he received a patent in 1839 and \$2000 when he sold the rights to his employer.

Importantly, as pictured below, his machine included a sharp metal rod, moving in a straight up and down vertical motion which was powered manually.

During these same canal digging decades, another new industry was developing, namely hand powered machines for sewing garments. The history of sewing machines, beginning in the late 1700s, is littered with failed attempts to make a long-lasting mechanical device. By the mid-1800s, Walter Hunt and Elias Howe had met with some success and the latter patented his sewing machine in 1846.

By that time, Isaac Singer had moved back to the Boston area and was a self-employed inventor renting space in a machine shop. A friend there asked him to see if he could solve the problem of sewing machines' unreliability. At that time, the most common form of needle movement in the machines was side to side on the top while on the bottom a second threaded mechanism

followed a curving motion to create the thread's lock stitch. When you look at Singer's patent illustration for his earlier rock drilling machine, you can guess how his mind approached the problem of sewing machine unreliability. Very shortly, Singer introduced a straight up and down vertical motion for the top needle and that innovation gave birth in 1851 to the highly reliable I.M. Singer sewing machine company.

By mass producing the machines, he brought the price down from \$100 to \$10 and that made them accessible to individual households. His machines reduced the time required to make a shirt from a little over 14 hours for hand stitching the garment to a little over one hour.. This changed the productivity of both individual households as well as large tailoring companies.

So there was a definite and direct link between the evolution of the first patented rock drilling machine and the nation's most popular sewing machine. The link was Isaac Merritt Singer whose ingenuity helped solve major problems in two of his day's burgeoning industries, canal building and clothing manufacturing.

For the last century and a half, the clothing and the fashion industry has been a major contributor to the U.S. economy. Simply mention

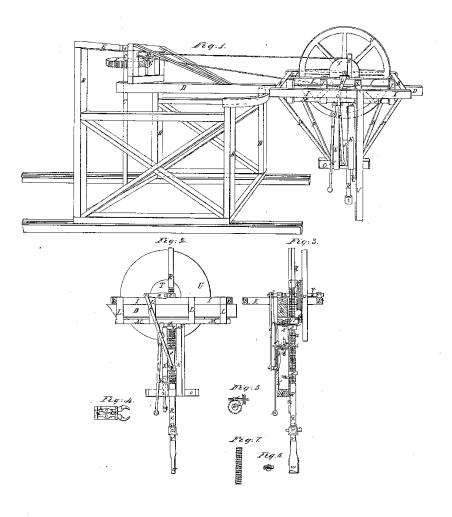
the term "Garment District" and what comes to mind is the large bustling neighborhood on Manhattan that came to symbolize the thriving American clothing and fashion industry. Interestingly, it is located just a few blocks north of where George Washington took his oath of office and shortly thereafter gave his first State of the Union address in 1790. Given his own entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to nurture the nation's economy, it is easy to believe George Washington would have been pleased to see the progress his nation had made, aided by the gifted talents of people such as Isaac Merritt Singer.

Most mineral collectors have a passion to understand the mineral content and structure of any rock or crystal they encounter. But for non-collectors, sometimes rocks are mainly obstacles which, when successfully dealt with, become stepping stones to a brighter future. For Singer, his rock drilling patent ignited his career as an inventor which then changed the way the people throughout the world clothed themselves. So the next time you look at a seam, whether on your shirt or during a mining expedition, enjoy the thought of how troublesome rocks in the mid-west led to an easier way of life for all people around the world.

I.M. Singer, Stone Drill.

119,151

Patented May 16, 1839.



AM, PHOTÓ-LITHO. CO, N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS)

Treasurer's Note: - Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal

2014 DUES

Please renew your membership today! \$20 for single member-ships. \$25 for family memberships.



Mail to: P.O. Box 9957 Alexandria, VA 22304 U.S.A.



(Photo by Ann Cameron Siegal)

Please send all treasurer-related emails to: dcmineralclub@gmail.com. Also, please make sure that the Treasurer has your most current contact information.

IN THE NEWS: CONGRATULATIONS TO REBECCA SIEGAL!

MSDC Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal, wears many hats. In March, she gave a research presentation to the Mid-Atlantic Archaeology Conference in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Titled: "All Kinds of Meats - Archaeological Findings at a Late Nineteenth Century Slaughterhouse in Alexandria, VA."

It was a broader version of her presentation to the Archaeological Society of Virginia last fall.

Just a couple of weeks ago, she was elected president of the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology, and earlier this year received a 4-year appointment from City Council to Alexandria's Archaeology Commission.

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HAPPY EASTER! HAPPY PASSOVER! HAPPY SPRING!

APRIL 2, 2014 MEETING Joe Marty – Micromineralogist



[Photos by S. Sims. Mineral Slides by Joe Marty]

Secretary's Report



By Rick Rieber [Not submitted. The below is per Editor's recollection.]

Meeting Date April 2, 2014

Place: Cathy Kerby Rom. CE-340. The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

Attendees: 21

8 pm call to order

Agenda Club Vice President, Pat Flavin recognized past presidents & guests

Minutes Approved: March minutes approved

Visitors: Stephanie

Treasurer's report: Rebecca Siegal accounted for the club funds.

Old Business: Name tags – show of hands indicated that the current cards, made by Susan Fisher, are fine. She will continue to create new ones as needed.

New Business: EFMLS Awards handed out. Need to determine who is handling door prizes. Need to determine where we will meet for pre-meeting dinners due to closure of Pier 7.

Adjourned 8:45 pm for presentation. Joe Marty, Micromineralogist presenting.

MORE REFRESHMENTS, PLEASE! A big THANK YOU to Betty Thompson for the delicious refreshments that she made for our April meeting! If you are able to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings, please do so.

WELCOME! WELCOME! Guests are always welcome to attend MSDC meetings.

Please continue to invite your friends! Great as always to see our friend and member, George Loud, at our last meeting!

THANK YOU to Andy Thompson for the time that he devotes towards proofreading the Mineral Minutes. His assistance is invaluable!



(Microsoft Clipart)

Speaker Flash Back

January 2014: Tim Rose, Smithsonian, Museum Specialist-Manager, Analytical Laboratories, Department of Mineral Sciences, will start our New Year off with a presentation on: The Mysterious Stone Masks of Teotihuacan, geologist in the Division of Mineralogy, for The Smithsonian National

February 2014: Sue Marcus, Australia—Minerals and Museums.

March 2014: GWU Field Trip/Dr. Richard Tollo & Student Presentation

April 2014: Joe Marty - Microminerals

UPCOMING EVENTS:

24-27: Rochester, NY - 41st Rochester Mineralogical Symposium April 24-27, 2014 Early Registration Deadline March 20, 2014 Contact: contactrms@hotmail.com, (315) 682-0387. Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623 Hotel ph# (585) 475-1910.

Monongahela Rockhounds Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Saturday, April 26, 2014 10:00 to 6:00. Sunday, April 27, 2014 10:00 to 4:00. West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co. #4 Skyview Hall, 660 Noble Drive, West Mifflin (Pittsburgh), PA 15122. Free Admission and parking. For more information and directions

go to www.monongahelarockhounds.org

26-27: West Mifflin (Pittsburgh), PA -

May 2014

17-18: Leesport, PA - 46th Annual "World of Gems & Minerals" sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Rt 61; Leesport, PA

June 2014

7: Macungie, PA - Spring Mineralfest – Mineral, Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA

7-8: Monroe, NY - Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry, Fossil Show, Sell & Swap sponsored by the Orange Co. Mineral Society. Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M, Monroe, NY.

26-27: Mattituck, NY - The Long Island Mineral & Geology Society, Sponsoring our

MEET, GREET, & EAT!



Join MSDC club members for dinner at Pier 7 at 6:00 p.m. before each meeting.

2014 MSDC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS









(left to right: Steve Johnson, Rick Reiber, Patricia Flavin, Rebecca Siegal,
Dave Hennessey, Andy Thompson, Dave Nanney, & Sheryl Sims)
(photos provided by B. Thompson, A. Cameron Siegal, & S. Sims)

Officers & Board Members Contact Information

President: Steve Johnson - StevikJ@gmail.com; Vice President: Patricia Flavin pattiflavin@gmail.com; Secretary: Rick Reiber - Mathfun34@yahoo.com; Treasurer: Rebecca
Siegal - dcmineralclub@gmail.com; Directors: Dave Hennessey - dhennessey@spa.com; Dave
Nanney - DNanney@cox.net;; Andy Thompson - thompson01@starpower.net; Editor: Sheryl Sims sesims4@cox.net



FEDERATION NEWS- AFMS Officers for 2013-14

President, Richard Jaeger, rjgrsci@aol.com; President-Elect, Marion Roberts, mvroberts@bigvalley.net; 1st Vice President, Matt Charsky, <matt2430@comcast.net>
2nd Vice President, Ann James, amariann113@yahoo.com; 3rd Vice President, J.C. Moore, jcmoore3rd@gmail.com; 4th Vice President, Doug True, <dtruefossils12@yahoo.com>
5th Vice President, Ann Monroe, annmonroe@windstream.net; Secretary, Anne Cook, secretary@amfed.org; Treasurer, Pat LaRue, <bplanue@earthlink.net>

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(Photo Courtesy of AFMS Newsletter - November, 2013, p.4.)

NEW EFMLS Officers for 2013 - 2014

President – Hazel Remaley, northridge5@verizon.net; 1st VP - Merrill Dickinson, medsearchnorth@comcast.net; 2nd VP – Michael Kessler, Quartz7228@aol.com Secretary, Gerry Cox, gerryannec@verizon.net

Treasurer, Jean Charsky, jean2430@comcast.net

Asst. Treasurer, Michael Patterson, Michael.Patterson@pgparks.com Editor, Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302, cscrystals2@gmail.com

2014 EFMLS Wildacres Registration PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session CHECK ONE: April 7 – 13: September 1 - 7: Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to PAMM BRYANT, Registrar at 2645 Davis Mill Rd, Goochland, VA 23063. No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2014. (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You may photocopy it as needed.) Please write legibly! Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____City:____ Telephone number with area code: Club/Society Affiliation:_ Fee for the spring session is \$390.00 per person. Deposit is \$185 per person, payable with registration. Fee for the fall session is \$390.00 per person. Deposit is \$185 per person, payable with registration. Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session. No postdated checks will be accepted. Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. No refund will be made after that date. Circle appropriate responses: Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes_____ No____ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes_____ No_ (If none, one will be assigned). Name of roommate: Are you: Male Female _____ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes____ No___ Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes______ No_____ If YES, please explain on reverse side. Do you have material for exhibiting that you would be willing to display at Wildacres? Yes No Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes_____ No____

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Class Pre-registration. See EFMLS Newsletter or Web site for class offerings. <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>

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<u>Pre-Meeting Dinner</u>: Join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner before the club meeting. Location to be determined/announced. Or, contact Patricia Flavin, pattiflavin@gmail.com to make a reservation if you wish to attend.

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings and dinners! MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (MSDC)

() Family ~ \$25.00 per year. One address.		
() Individual ~ \$20.00 per year.		
() New * () Renewal Dues are for Year	*	
For new members who join in the last months of	of the year, membership wil	l extend through the following year with no
additional dues.		
ANNUAL DUE	ES – PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES	S PROMPTLY.
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	Alexandria, VA 22304	
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<u>MINERALOGICA</u>	AL SOCIETY OF THE DIST (2014 Officers & Board Membe	
President: Steve Johnson, stevikj@gmail.o	-	:13)
Vice President & Program Chair: Patricia F		com
Secretary: Rick Reiber, Mathfun34@yaho	• •	
		1SDC, P.O. Box 9957, Alexandria, VA 22304)
Directors: Dave Nanney, Dave Hennessey		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Editor: Sheryl Sims, sesims4@cox.net	,, , . , . , . , . , . , . , . , .	The second secon
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	thsonian Institution, 10 th S	nonth. (No meeting in July and August.) The Street and Constitution Ave, Washington D.C.

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The Mineral Minutes is an EFMLS & AFMS Award Winning Bulletin

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Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia



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